

## **Community Residential Recovery Work Group**

**August 23, 2006      9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**Moody Court, WCMHS, Waterbury**

**Next meeting: October 4, 2006      9:00 – 11:00      Dr. Simpatico's office**

**Present:** Judy Rosenstreich, Nick Emlen, Michael Hartman, David Gallagher, Paul Landerl

### **DMH Update**

Judy reported that the Futures staff had been fully engaged in work associated with the Phase 1 CON and that the Housing, Crisis Bed, and VSH Employees' work groups also were meeting regularly. The VSH Employees' group is aiming for a 9/7/06 target to release its findings regarding the recommended roles for state workers in the Futures planning process. Later today the Crisis Bed group is visiting Alternatives in Bellows Falls for a site review and questions regarding what the best components of crisis care should be.

### **CRR Update**

Michael gave an update on the Certificate of Approval (COA) process and other issues related to opening of the Williamstown project. The COA has been approved and, at this point, the Collaborative Solutions Consortium (CSC) is engaging in the contracting process with the State. The building plans for renovation are set and if the purchase can happen in the next few weeks, a January 1, 2007, opening date is possible. This is the next crucial step as the buyer cannot get final approval from his bank without a signed lease from CSC; likewise, CSC cannot sign the lease without a signed contract from the State. A request to VDH for start-up funding and some sort of letter of intent has been given and is awaiting a response.

The Job Description process has begun for all regular full time positions. A hiring process is beginning to be defined. This currently is planned in the sequence of: hire the Program Director first, then an Administrative Assistant, then Associate Director, then Nursing/Vocational/Therapeutic Case Manager, then Recovery Counselors. Paul shared a concern that consumers should be involved in the interview process. Michael offered that a community advisory board was being established for the program and consumer participation in hiring is supported by CSC. David offered that he would be interested in the group and will be contacted to participate in it.

Judy raised the question of whether current VSH employees would have employment opportunities at Williamstown's residential recovery program. The CSC group has been open to this all along. Hiring of VSH employees would happen in one of two ways:

1. by welcoming applications from current VSH staff, or

2. by the State making a proposal to allow VSH employees to work for CSC while maintaining their status as state employees.

CSC has assumed that the State will reach some accord with employees on this matter, but wants to be clear of our position that VSH employees are a valuable and important resource to both CSC and persons who might move from VSH to Williamstown.

### **Next Steps for CRR Work Group**

The discussion after that focused on next steps regarding the CRR group. Among the issues were meeting place as we have lost the participation of VSH staff by meeting at Moody Court across the street from VSH. The group agreed to return the meetings to Dr. Simpatico's office beginning with the next meeting. Also, three discussion points were decided upon for the next meeting. These are:

1. Identify optimum location for a 2<sup>nd</sup> CRR. The Futures group has fixed a town or village location for the next CRR. Further location factors should be discussed.
2. VSH beds on Brooks Rehabilitation Unit – What should be the approach to address transfers of patients there to Second Spring. Should those beds be closed, opened only to those who might fail in the CRR, or left open as needed by VSH?
3. Designated Hospitals and their access to the 2<sup>nd</sup> CRR beds. This has been often discussed in Future meetings by DH reps.

**Next meeting is scheduled for October 4 at the VSH office of Dr. Simpatico in the Dale Building across from the Canteen, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**